

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /073 W

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R 111551Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6317

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: MARCH 11 TO PASS WITHOUT
CELEBRATION

SUMMARY THE ANNIVERSARY OF LAST YEAR'S ABORTIVE RIGHT WING COUP
ON MAR 11 IS TO PASS WITHOUT CELEBRATION. AN INDICATOR
OF THE TIMES WAS THE RELEASE OF TWO LEADING FIGURES IMPLICATED
IN THE COUP ATTEMPT. LABOR UNREST CONTINUES AT A STEAD BUT
LOW LEVEL WITH NO EVIDENCE YET OF A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BY THE PCP AND ITS ALLIES IN THE
UNIONS.END SUMMARY.

1. ANNIVERSARY OF MARCH 11: THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ABORTIVE MAR 11 RIGHT WING COUP, PRECURSOR TO LAST YEAR'S
LURCH TO THE LEFT, IS PASSING WITH NO SPECIAL EFFORT TO
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CELEBRATE THE OCCASION ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNIST-LINING

"DIARIO" CARRIED A GLOOMY AND NOSTALGIC EDITORIAL ON THE SUBJECT. AN INDICATOR OF THE TIMES WAS THE RELEASE FROM PRISON MAR 10 OF FORMER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER SANCHES OSORIO AND FORMER NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER DAMIAO, BOTH ALLEGEDLY IMPLICATED IN THE COUP ATTEMPT. AAIRA HAS BEEN TOLD BY MEMBER OF PIDE EXTINCTION COMMITTEE THAT REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE PIDE (FORMER POLITICAL POLICE) WILL ALL BE FREED FROM PRISON BEFORE ELECTIONS, WITH NO TRIALS PLANNED.

2. LABOR DISPUTES: THE FIRESTONE CASE CONTINUES TO SIMMER FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICAN MENAGERS AND THERE ARE A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LABOR DISPUTES UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY RANING FROM NURSES IN LISBON TO FISHERMEN IN PRVOA DE VARZIM. THERE IS NO INDICATION YET OF A CONCERTED EFFORT BY THE PCP AND ITS ALLIES TO MOUNT A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT USING THE UNIONS. WE DO HAVE ONE REPORT THAT THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE FIRESTONE AFFAIR WAS TO EMBARRASS MINISTER OF FINANCE SALGADO ZENHA BEFORE HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES NEXT WEEK.

3. ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC: THE CONSTITUTENT ASSEMBLY HAS DECIDED TO NAME THE FUTURE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THE "ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC".
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